

2012 Annual Report



Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council

**Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council**
11 Kent Street, 4th Floor
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Honourable Janice Sherry
Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Sherry:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act*, I have the honor of presenting the Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Council.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Davies
Chair

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Introduction

The Environmental Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to advise the Minister responsible for the environment on environmental matters.

Secretarial services for the Council are provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Subsection 4(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act* sets out the Council's responsibilities. The Act states that

The Council shall

- (a) serve as an advisory board to the Minister Responsible for the Environment; and
- (b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. To better define the Environmental Advisory Council's mandate, the following terms of reference were approved by the Minister:

1. To advise the Minister Responsible for the Environment on matters referred to it by the Minister or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
2. To report annually to the Minister on submissions received, research conducted, investigations undertaken and recommendations made under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
3. To advise the Minister on environmental matters related to activities in relation to the Provincial Conservation Strategy.
4. To make recommendations to the Minister on conservation or environmental improvement awards.
5. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.
6. To recommend to the Minister public education projects or programs.
7. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and

- non-government programs and projects.
- 8. To advise the Minister on legislative proposals as they relate to environmental protection and enhancement.
- 9. To advise the Minister on such matters as the Minister may direct.
- 10. To perform such functions as may be provided by regulations under clause 4(2)(b) of the Act.

Support for the Council is provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Labour and Justice.

General Comments

Minister Sherry authorized the Environmental Advisory Council to engage in the development of a new Conservation Strategy for Prince Edward Island. Development of the strategy was initiated in response to the report of the Commission on Land and Local Governance - *New Foundations*. The Environmental Advisory Council was asked to assist in the review of all available information on the present status of our Island environment, with a view to developing a sustainable future for our province.

Council held eight regular meetings during 2012, together with a number of special meetings of various subcommittees of Council, including the Environmental Awards, Science Fair and Conservation Strategy Subcommittees.

Developing the Conservation Strategy

Work on the new Conservation Strategy has been on-going over the year. A public consultation document was prepared - *Planning for a Sustainable Future: A Time For Questions* - and released on 9th August, 2012 following Cabinet approval.

Sustainable Development Principles

The Report of the Commission on Land and Local Governance also recommended that provincial land use policies and a conservation strategy be developed using a set of sustainable development principles.

The Land Use Policy Task Force was formed to lead a public dialogue on provincial land policies and is undertaking a wide-ranging review of land practices in the province. To help inform the Land Use Policy Task Force in the development of new provincial land use policies, the Environmental Advisory Council has identified a set of guiding principles to direct decision-making, protection and sustainable development of our land and resources. A draft set of guiding principles were developed following consultation with key stakeholders across the Island.

Meeting Outlines

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2012, and the discussion topics addressed, are

presented in the table below.

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Guests/Speakers</i>	<i>Issues Discussed</i>
Jan. 18, 2012	Neil MacNair	<i>Aquaculture Industry on PEI</i>
Feb. 15, 2012	Barry MacPhee	<i>The PEI Fishing Industry A Selected Overview</i>
Mar. 14, 2012	Kim Horrelt	<i>Biomass Boilers</i>
May 22, 2012	Jim Young	<i>Operation and Budget for the EAC</i>
Oct. 17, 2012	Bruce Raymond	<i>Amendments to the Environmental Protection Act Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations.</i>

Other Matters

During the year, Council members discussed a variety of environmental issues. These are listed below:

- Watershed management
- Communications plan for the *Planning for a Sustainable Future: A Time For Questions* document
- Plan 'B' - Environmental impact assessment protocols
- Public consultations held together with the Task Force on Land Use Policy
- Review of legislative process and regulation development
- Environmental education, information, engagement and motivation: Creating a better model of environmental communication in Prince Edward Island
- Assessment of the PEI Environmental Award submissions

2012 Science Fair Winners

The Environmental Advisory Council takes an active interest in the annual Provincial Science Fair sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island. Involvement has included helping judge and award prizes to participants whose projects demonstrate a high level of understanding or innovative approaches to environmental issues. In 2012, the Dr. Leon Loucks Environmental Awards were presented to entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories with prize money of \$80, \$50 and \$30 awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively. The 2012 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZES

Junior Category

1st - Maddy Jackson and Sienne Garcis-Livingstone, Parkdale Elementary - Waste Less Lunches

2nd - Olivia McLeod and Brett McLeod, Sherwood Elementary - Is Our Water Really Safe?

3rd - Leigha Crandall and Bianca Roach, Ecole la Belle Cloche - L'agriculture en ville

Intermediate Category:

1st - Hannah Hardy, Summerside Intermediate - Wind Erosion/ L'erosion eolienne

2nd - Malek Wolters, Stonepark Intermediate - Save Our Island: Breakwaters

3rd - Ralph Mackenzie, Englewood - Erosion

Senior Category:

1st - Not awarded

2nd - Not awarded

PEI Environmental Award Winners

Since its inception in 1987, the Environmental Advisory Council has recognized citizens for their special commitment to the environment through the PEI Environmental Awards.

In June 2012, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following:

Environmental School Challenge Award

Winner: Southern Kings Consolidated School

In the spring of 2005, students and staff at Southern Kings Consolidated School spearheaded an environmental project. In partnership with the Home and School Association, and the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry, the school developed an educational and interactive nature trail that is used to teach natural resource issues at all grade levels. The 2.24 km Southern Kings Nature Trail, developed on woodlots adjacent to the school, allows for hands-on outdoor studies along field edges, hedgerows and wetlands, and through mixed woodlands. Students are able to learn key parts of their curriculum in their own outdoor classroom, just steps from the school door. This is an ongoing environmental project for the school.

Winner: Jim Sutton, Caledonia

Caledonia resident, Jim Sutton, has logged several hundred volunteer hours working for the Piping Plover Guardian Program run by the Island Nature Trust. Volunteers are relied on to inspect beaches throughout the province where the piping plovers, an endangered species, are known to nest. If the birds are present, the nest sites are marked off and signs are placed to warn people not to disturb the nests and young chicks.

While the Island Nature Trust has some staff to carry out field work, the program would not be as effective without the contribution of Mr. Sutton. He has been an outstanding volunteer because of his commitment and the high quality of his work. Many birds have been able to nest because of his guardianship. For an endangered species struggling to survive, this work is hugely important.

Winner: Town of Stratford

The Town of Stratford is being honoured for its dedication to enhancing its natural resources and wildlife habitat.

The municipality has actively supported the Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group, in association with the Hillsborough Area Watershed Co-operative, since its inception in 2009. This

partnership has resulted in many environmental projects, including its latest project, the Pondside System Restoration Project, which will tackle a system in need of improvement and restoration. Working with the watershed group, the town also expanded its existing Water Conservation Education program to include watershed education.

Stratford is developing a water conservation program to reduce residential water consumption. A showerhead exchange program, toilet rebate program, rain barrel rebate, free water audits and a pilot metering program will all serve to educate the public on water usage and water conservation techniques.

The community has also allocated significant funding for tree planting in parks and public places. Combined with the efforts of the watershed group, more than 25,000 native seedlings, trees, shrubs and wildflowers have been planted within the past two years

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2012 Membership

Richard Davies, Chair
Belle River

Neil Harpham
Charlottetown

Dean Stewart, Vice-Chair
Summerside

Daryl Guignion
Crapaud

Paul Gallant
Souris

Jessica Cooke
Cape Wolfe

Bertha Campbell
Kensington

Wayne Gallant
Summerside

J. Bruce MacIsaac
Cornwall

Allan Gallant
Georgetown

Title Page: Common Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

Print Credit: Flora von Deutschland Österreich und der Schweiz (1885)

Otto Wilhelm Thomé <http://caliban.mpiz-koeln.mpg.de/thome/index.html>

